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COMMUNICATION OF 29 MAY 1998 RECEIVED FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Attached is a communication received from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation, forwarding a statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, for the information of Member States.

For reasons of economy, this document has been printed in a limited number.

98-01934

TEXT OF COMMUNICATION OF 29 MAY 1998 FROM THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Dear Mr. ElBaradei,

I am sending you herewith a statement from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the tests of nuclear explosive devices conducted by Pakistan.

I should be grateful if it could be circulated amongst the Agency's Member States.

Attachment: As indicated, one page.

O. Sokolov
(signed) Resident Representative

Mr. ElBaradei
Director General
IAEA, Vienna

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Russia wishes to express its deepest concern at the testing of nuclear devices by Pakistan on 28 May 1998. This action was undertaken despite insistent appeals by the world community to Islamabad to exercise restraint and not to act upon the "eye for an eye" principle in response to the nuclear explosions conducted by India on 11 and 13 May 1998.

It is a matter for regret that the Pakistani leadership was unable to quell emotions and demonstrate circumspection and prudence at an extremely critical juncture.

The long-standing confrontation and rivalry between India and Pakistan has now acquired a completely new nuclear complexion, extremely dangerous for all mankind, with a real threat of nuclear weapons spreading around the world.

Russia supports a truly universal international non-proliferation regime incorporating all States without exception and once again strongly urges Pakistan, as well as India, to heed the voice of the world community, desist from further tests and accede without delay to both the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

28 May 1998